

December 18, 2014

MEMO

TO Amenia Planning Board Members

FROM: Sharon Kroeger, Wassaic Historical Agricultural Crossroads

RE: Chemicals which will be allowed on the Silo Ridge Golf Course

1) The precedent in Amenia in dealing with Audubon and chemical standards was set prior to 1990 during a review of the golf course which was to have been built along the Webutuck on the East side of Rattlesnake Mountain. At that time, the Planning Board, then chaired by George Fenn, requested that the Audubon organization submit a complete list of all the possible chemicals that might be used to maintain that golf course. And then the Board did routine consultation with Cornell Co-op Extension, which has continuous access to professors who are experts, so that certain toxic chemicals were able to be removed from the Amenia accepted list prior, to Planning Board permission being given to proceed with the golf course.

2) Now, 25 years later, your concerns when speaking with the Audubon professionals, should be different in at least three aspects: One is that you are dealing with a very steep mountainside where residue flows into both DEC protected waterways and an aquifer that provides drinking water wells to at least 75 homes in Wassaic Hamlet. Second, is that New York State has since passed a new law that deals with very careful treatment of waste water. Third, there have been changes and developments in the field of chemical pesticides, and the Federal Government is in the process of being lobbied by Dow Chemical to expand those allowed to include the use of toxins related to "Agent Orange". This controversy has not yet been resolved. It is particularly important that you question the Audubon experts so as to obtain their current list of chemical compounds which they now accept, so as to be able to decide which of these you are going to allow to be used on De Laverne Hill.

cc. Mark Doyle, Previous Chair, Comprehensive Plan Committee
George Fenn, Esq., Former Chair, Amenia Planning Board
David Reagon, Chair, Conservation Advisory Council